FORMAT

```
FORMAT [(rep)] parameter...
```

Function

The FORMAT statement is used to specify input and output parameter settings. Settings specified with a FORMAT statement override (at compilation time) default settings in effect for the session that have been set by a GLOBALS command, SET GLOBALS statement, or by the Natural administrator. These settings may in turn be overridden by parameters specified in a DISPLAY, INPUT, PRINT, WRITE, WRITE TITLE, or WRITE TRAILER statement.

The settings remain in effect until the end of a program or until another FORMAT statement is encountered.

A FORMAT statement does not generate any executable code in the Natural program. It is not executed in dependence of the logical flow of a program. It is evaluated during program compilation in order to set parameters for compiling DISPLAY, WRITE, and INPUT statements. The settings defined with a FORMAT statement are applicable to all DISPLAY, WRITE, and INPUT statements which follow. Multiple FORMAT statements are permitted within a program, but only one per report.

Report Specification - *rep*

The notation (*rep*) may be used to specify the identification of the report for which the FORMAT statement is applicable. A value in the range 0 - 31 or a logical name which has been assigned using the DEFINE PRINTER statement may be specified. If (*rep*) is not specified, the FORMAT statement will be applicable to the first report (report 0).

Parameters

The parameters can be specified in any order and must be separated by one or more spaces. A single entry must not be split between two statement lines.

Field sensitive parameter settings applied here will only be regarded for variable fields used in a INPUT, WRITE, DISPLAY or PRINT statement of the selected report. They do not apply for text-constants used in any of the mentioned statements.

```
DEFINE DATA LOCAL
1 VARI (A4)      INIT <'1234'>         /*      Output
END-DEFINE                             /*      Produced
FORMAT PM=I                            /*      ---------
WRITE 'Text'         VARI              /*      Text 4321
WRITE 'Text' (PM=I)  VARI              /*      txeT 4321
END
```

See the section Session Parameters in the Natural Reference documentation for a description of the parameters which may be used.

Example

```
   /* EXAMPLE 'FMTEX1:' FORMAT
   /*********************************************************
   DEFINE DATA LOCAL
   1 EMPLOY-VIEW VIEW OF EMPLOYEES
     2 NAME
     2 CITY
     2 POST-CODE
     2 COUNTRY
   END-DEFINE
   /*********************************************************
   FORMAT AL=7     /* ALPHANUMERIC FIELD OUTPUT LENGTH
          FC=+     /* FILLER CHARACTER FOR FIELD HEADER
          GC=*     /* FILLER CHARACTER FOR GROUP HEADER
          HC=L     /* HEADER LEFT JUSTIFIED
          IC=<<    /* INSERT CHARACTERS
          IS=ON    /* IDENTICAL SUPPRESS ON
          TC=>>    /* TRAILING CHARACTERS
          UC==     /* UNDERLINE CHARACTER
          ZP=OFF   /* ZERO PRINT OFF
   /*********************************************************
   LIMIT 5
   READ EMPLOY-VIEW BY NAME
    DISPLAY NOTITLE NAME 3X CITY 3X POST-CODE 3X COUNTRY
   END-READ
   /*********************************************************
   END
```

```
   NAME+++++++     CITY+++++++    POSTAL+++++    COUNTRY++++
                                  ADDRESS

   ===========     ===========    ===========    ===========

   <<ABELLAN>>     <<MADRID >>    <<28014  >>    <<E   >>
   <<ACHIESO>>     <<DERBY  >>    <<DE3 4TR>>    <<UK >>
   <<ADAM   >>     <<JOIGNY >>    <<89300  >>    <<F   >>
   <<ADKINSO>>     <<BEDFORD>>    <<1730   >>    <<USA>>
                   <<FRAMING>>    <<1701   >>
```